



# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor announces: Aruba's outlook for high season 2011/12 positive; formation of Airlift Committee



Minister Otmar Oduber

Aruba's Minister of Tourism Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber announced on Wednesday, August 31, the formation of an Airlift Committee which will see to the increased productivity of Aruba's tourism product and the full deployment of the Reina Beatrix International Airport. The committee consists of representatives of four Aruban agencies involved in tourism and air traffic along with his ministry.



Peter Steinmetz

These are the Aruba Tourism Authority, (ATA), Aruba Airport Authority, (AAA), Department of Civil Aviation and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA.) Simultaneously, the ministry has also engineered the founding of a Cruise Line Committee, to best implement change and progress for that important element of Aruba's tourism.

The Airlift Committee has informally existed for some months, and Minister Oduber states he is extremely pleased with the results this cooperative effort. Director of AAA, Peter Steinmetz and Director of the ATA, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, joined the minister in reporting on the results of their work.

Mr. Steinmetz was able to provide hard figures that demonstrate positive results from the efforts of the committee to insure sufficient airlift to Aruba during the coming high season and beyond. The announcement of American Airlines, a commercial carrier that has been a partner in Aruba's tourist product for several decades, of the discontinuation of any direct flights from JFK airport in November stimulated the committee to negotiate with other air carriers to fill that void. "Fortunately, we found quite a few, such as Jet Blue, are more than satisfied with the performance of Aruba as a destination for satisfactory load factors and proving profitable," stated Mr. Steinmetz. "Jet

Blue was very agreeable regarding increased flights, as was Air Trans, which is a relatively new carrier to Aruba." The latter will be flying direct from Baltimore/Washington, which is a new route to the island with great potential, and adding daily flight from Atlanta, Georgia, which will continue to be serviced by Delta Airlines.

Aruba has two local signature airlines, Tiara Air Aruba and Insel Air Aruba, which announced earlier this year they will be expanding their fleet to include 154 passenger jets which will service a number of U.S. cities, including Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Charlotte, North Carolina and Boston, Massachusetts. Over the high season, beginning in November, until spring of 2012, AAA has confirmed 346 flights coming in from the U.S., compared to 263 from last year, a 30% increase overall.

"This may not be the final number, as we are still in discussions with other carriers, but cannot confirm their status at present," explained Mr. Steinmetz. He explained the schedule changes for American, which still has twice daily flights to Aruba from Miami, only reflects "the new alliances all airlines are forming to operate in a more cost efficient manner, and nothing to do with the appeal of the destination. Business flyers are more profitable than leisure customers, so planes are being rerouted to service them.

Those traveling to Aruba and wishing to fly American can do so from several cities by connecting through their Miami hub." However, the Airlift Committee understands the need to establish as much non-stop service to Aruba as possible, and are directing their efforts towards that goal.

Continued on page 5

## Island Press feted at Government House for Dia di Prensa



Happy Birthday Prime Minister Eman



Aruban parliamentarians and administrative staff shared a delightful brunch with Aruban press yesterday morning, compliments of Prime Minister Mike Eman, in celebration of September 1, Dia di Prensa.

The Prime Minister had just

launched the new Boaruba.com website before lauding island news media for their contributions continuing efforts to keep the public informed and educated on current events.

Continued on page 5



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## WikiLeaks ignored US appeals not to release documents: US

PARIS (AFP) - Anti-secrecy site WikiLeaks informed the United States in advance of tens of thousands of new document releases but ignored US appeals not to make them public, the State Department said Thursday.

The remarks come after WikiLeaks accused a journalist with the Guardian of leaking the passwords to a trove of US diplomatic cables containing the names of protected sources, charges denied by the British newspaper.

"Wikileaks did advise us of the impending release of information and of its intention to continue to release classified documents," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said.

"We have made clear our views and concerns about illegally disclosed classified information and the continuing risk to individuals and national security that such re-

leases cause," Nuland said in a statement.

"Wikileaks has, however, ignored our requests not to release or disseminate any US documents it may possess and has continued its well-established pattern of irresponsible, reckless, and frankly dangerous actions," she said.

"We are not cooperating with them," Nuland said during a visit to Paris with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The United States has warned that the release of confidential and secret documents, which began last November after WikiLeaks obtained 250,000 US diplomatic cables, puts at risk US national security and individuals who speak to US diplomats.

In London, WikiLeaks said

"a Guardian journalist has, in a previously undetected act of gross negligence or malice, and in violation of a signed security agreement with the Guardian's editor-in-chief Alan Rusbridger, disclosed top secret decryption passwords to the entire, unredacted, WikiLeaks Cablegate archive".

"We have already spoken to the (US) State Department and commenced pre-litigation action. We will issue a formal statement in due course," WikiLeaks added, in a statement posted on Twitter.

The Guardian, one of a handful of newspapers that began publishing redacted cables last year, said WikiLeaks shared the documents through a secure server for a period of hours before taking the server offline and removing the files.

## Colombia ex-minister back to jail over assassination

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia's supreme court has upheld a 24-year jail sentence against a drug cartel-linked former justice minister convicted of taking part in the assassination of a rival presidential candidate in 1989.

The decision will send the former minister, Alberto Santofimio, back to prison for the murder of Luis Carlos Galan. Santofimio was first sentenced in 2007 but was released the following year on appeal.

The family of the slain candidate had filed a legal complaint with the court over Santofimio's release, noting that he had been found responsible in the death of Galan and another two people who perished in the attack.

Galan, who took a hard line against the country's powerful drug cartels and was the favorite to win the election in 1990, was shot dead in a public square in a town outside Bogota as he prepared to give a speech.

The assassination was carried out by gunmen loyal to the infamous cartel boss Pablo Escobar, a friend of Santofimio.

Santofimio, a former senator and justice minister under president Alfonso Lopez (1974-1978), was also running for president in the 1990 race.

The key testimony for the prosecution during the original 15-month trial came from Escobar henchman John "Popeye" Jairo Vazquez, who said he heard Santofimio tell the drug lord many times that Galan should be killed.

## Gulf of Mexico storm threatens oil rigs

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil companies began evacuating workers from rigs in the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday ahead of what US forecasters said could be a powerful and dangerous storm.

"Where it will go and what it will do is too early to tell."

The weather service is urging residents across the Gulf Coast to keep an eye on the storm which will likely bring heavy rain and powerful winds and could also cause some flooding.

And could spell a slowdown for oil operations in the Gulf, source of a substantial portion of US offshore crude.

ExxonMobil said it is evacuating approximately 140 employees and contractors from Gulf Coast offshore platforms expected to be in the path of the storm.

"Gross production of ap-

proximately 11,000 barrels per day of liquids and 60 million cubic feet per day of natural gas has been shut-in," the oil giant said in a statement.

BP said it had begun evacuating "all personnel from its operative assets in the Gulf of Mexico" on Thursday, but did not indicate the impact on production. Shell said weather conditions were interfering with evacuation efforts and it might be safer to leave some workers on their rigs.

Shell said it had begun to take actions to shut in some production, primarily in "sub-sea fields that require specific treatments to ensure the production can be restored after the storm passes," and that the impacts so far are "minimal."

Anadarko said it had shut in production at all eight of its facilities and evacuating all personnel -- about 100 people

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**Ingrid Does**  
Manager

**Rosalinda Maduro**  
**Chandette Richardson**  
Editors

**Marline v. d. Linden**  
Asst. to the editors

**Rosalie Klein**  
Reporter / Photographer

**Yanis Garcia**  
**Paula Iglesias**  
Sales

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**Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111**  
**Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518**

**E-mail:**  
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

**Website:**  
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

**Dutch police uncover US child porn sites**  
**-AMSTERDAM - Dutch police have discovered huge amounts of child pornography during an investigation into hidden websites on the internet, prosecutors announced this week. Two servers which were closed were located in the U.S. The investigation was launched to assess the network of 27-year-old Robert Mikelsons, of Amsterdam, who has confessed to sexually abusing dozens of young children while being employed at two Amsterdam nurseries between February 2007 and January 2010. He also offered his services through several websites. Mikelsons is believed to have abused at least 87 young children. Prosecutors said Mikelsons visited hidden websites on the internet by using anonymity network Tor, which enables users to browse websites anonymously by routing their web traffic through the computers of other Tor users. The hidden websites were not only used to exchange child pornography, but also to discuss the abuse of children and the production and distribution of child pornography. Dutch police were able to access twelve of the hidden websites by breaking their security.**



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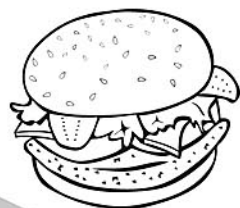
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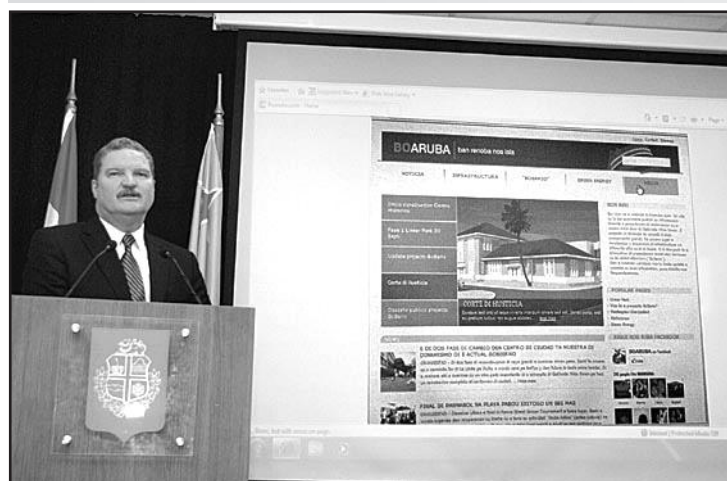
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# Prime Minister Mike Eman proudly launches Boaruba.com



PM Eman Introduces new website



September 1 was a day of celebration at Aruba's Government House for many reasons, not the least being the 50th birthday of Prime Minister Mike Eman. On this day he

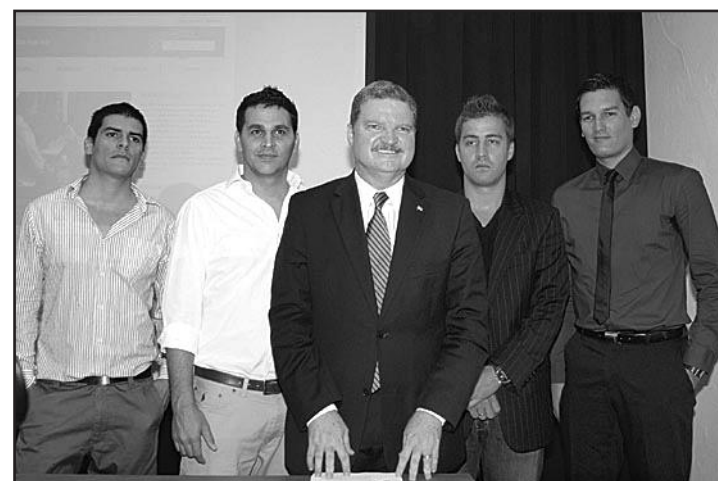
chose to give a gift to his constituents with the launching of the Boaruba.com site, offering full and timely information on all the changes in infrastructure and social improvement project on the island.

The creative team of Elton Arends, Marlon Kock, Albert Fowler and Wayne Heronimo have designed and implemented an attractive, informative website, which will be updated daily. Art renderings and detailed explanations will clarify for islanders the many changes going on about them.



Graphic details on 12 improvement projects in Oranjestad, San Nicolas, Spaans Lagoen, and island schools, either already in the works or about to take place will enable the population to fully comprehend the wide-reaching long-term plans the administration has for Aruba's infrastructure. The site also provides links to clarify other important issues and events, such as the Pan American Conference on Obesity, PACO, which took place in early June and the Green Energy Conference from last fall, their purpose and achievements.

Aruba is very much on the move, as the present administration has implemented many projects to improve not only the island's appearance and



PM Eman with development team

economic health, but that of the individuals who reside here. "Boaruba.com is a part of our policy of transparency," stated the Prime Minister.

Elton explained the site is

very easy to navigate and invites all to visit <http://www.boaruba.com/>

by Rosalie Klein

MH

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## Miss Aruba is the positive surprise of the day



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When the 2011 Miss Universe candidates arrived at the Morumbi Hilton Hotel, in São Paulo, only one photographer from a local news agency was present. There was no press to wait for the Miss Universe beauties, but a few pageant followers were there to register the moment for MBonB, the #1 Brazilian source of pageant information, and Global Beauties.

João Ricardo, from MBonB, and also a GB correspondent, spoke to some of the people involved with the MUO, and got a positive impression: "Fadil Berisha, for instance, was very nice. He said the Brazilian carnival will serve as inspiration for the official photos."

Here are João's first impressions about our Miss Universe Aruba candidate:

- Aruba: the best surprise of the day, she is possible the most beautiful black woman competing for the crown. Her figure is perfect, her smile luminous. Expect her to do well.



Gillain Berry poses for a photo at Hilton Sao Paulo Morumbi, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.  
(AFP PHOTO)



## Aruba's outlook for high season 2011/12 positive...

Continued from page 1



**Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes**

Mr. Steinmetz went on to report Copa Airlines out of Panama City is more than happy with their load factors; planes are packed and reservations must be made well in advance. Discussions regarding Copa increasing the size of their planes and to offer more seats are now progressing well. Avianca of Colombia is also quite happy with their load factors and considering more flights and more seats. The Airlift Committee is discussing with Brazilian concerns the prospect of regularly sched-

uled flights from this emerging economy, which is very strong at present, and is optimistic about adding it to the schedule in the near future.

Mrs. Tjin Asjoe-Croes discussed the statistics and positive growth in island visitors over the past year, and in particular, efforts to increase the European demographic. KLM is still Aruba's principal carrier from Europe, but non-stop charter flights from England, Italy and Scandinavia are providing access for groups that find vacationing on Aruba has a distinctive cache and "boast factor," and they are proving highly successful. "These charters help to open new markets and create a dedicated tourist base, which grows from word of mouth," she explained, "they are the foundation of establishing regularly scheduled commercial flights." TUI and Arkefly out of Holland are also performing very well.

"In these times of financial setbacks and uncertainty, Aruba's outlook for the coming year regarding maintaining our airlift and providing for visitors is very encouraging," stated Mr. Steinmetz. "We are far out-performing quite a few of our competitors in the region."

by Rosalie Klein



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## Island Press feted...

Continued from page 1



It was a double celebration, as September 1 is also Prime Minister Eman's birthday, and this year he hit the landmark BIG 5-0, to which he jokingly expressed he now believes he has reached his "years of wisdom."

Prior to retiring to the gar-

dens of Government House for a pleasant interlude, Prime Minister Eman also enjoined local media of their obligation to report accurately and factually, regardless of political affiliation or philosophy, and the importance of maintaining neutrality outside of editorial

content.

It was a welcome respite from a busy day for the island's media, who enjoyed sharing time with their colleagues and many of the subjects of their reporting.

by Rosalie Klein

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## Sci-Tech

### Sony to release tablet computer this month



(AFP) -- Sony's first tablet computer will hit the Japanese market on September 17 as the company looks to take on Apple's popular iPad, the electronics giant said Thursday.

The Sony Tablet will be powered by Google's Android software, allowing users to download content such as books, movies and games.

The Sony Tablet "S" series with a 9.4-inch (23.8 centimetre) touchscreen display is expected to have a price tag of 45,000 yen (\$580) for a 16-gigabyte data storage model and 53,000 yen for the 32-gigabyte version.

The product will also become available in US and European markets later this month, with a price tag of \$499 and 479 euros for the 16-gigabyte model.

Competitors have rushed to

cash in on soaring demand for tablets since the iPad was released in April last year, but Sony's devices will arrive well behind those of its rivals.

The devices will have access to Sony's cloud of online content such as movies, music, digital books, PlayStation games and other entertainment.

Sony has focused more on pushing its content such as games and music through hardware platforms including game consoles, smartphones and tablet computers.

It will release the dual-screened "P" series with a folding design, incorporating two 5.5-inch screens in Japan between October and November. The series will be launched in November in Europe and sometime later this year in the United States.

"Sony aims to grab the No. 1 share of the growing Android-based tablet market (in Japan) in fiscal 2012 (ending March 2013)," Kyodo News quoted Akihiro Matsubara, corporate vice president of Sony Marketing Inc, as saying.

Sony shares rose 1.98 percent to 1,698 yen in Tokyo trade on Thursday.

### LG ties up with Philips, Sharp for smart TV apps

(AFP) -- South Korea's LG Electronics said Thursday it has tied up with Dutch giant Philips and Japan's Sharp to ramp up production of applications for Internet-powered televisions.

The three TV vendors will jointly create software development kits, which will be distributed to third-party developers to write TV applications, LG said in a statement.

It is the first such collaboration in the smart TV sector, LG said, adding the three would complete software development kits by the end of this year.

They will use different operating systems for their smart TVs, but the applications will become interchangeable once they adopt a common technology standard for building applications, LG said.

It said the tie-up would have a substantial impact on TV makers, app developers and users.

LG has seen flagging sales of mobile phones and televisions this year because it failed quickly to roll out smartphones to rival Apple's market-leading iPhone and Samsung Electronics' Galaxy S.

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## La Nina risks increase, to detriment of E. Africa: UN

(AFP) -- There is a 50 percent chance the climatic condition known as La Nina -- which is associated with droughts in East Africa -- will return this year, the UN weather agency said Thursday.

"We are increasing the probability of La Nina from 25 to 50 percent," Rupa Kumar Kolli, a climate expert at the World Meteorological Organization said, explaining that the rise was due to recent temperature observations in the Pacific.

"La Nina is associated with drought conditions in east Africa. The last La Nina situation was believed to have caused the drought condition in the greater Horn of Africa," he told reporters, referring to the La Nina event which ended in May.

He however stressed that meteorological predictions were difficult to make and depended on a variety of local conditions.

"And even if a La Nina situation reemerges, it is very likely it will be a very weak La Nina event," Kolli explained.

Over 12 million people across the Horn of Africa are reeling from the region's worst drought in decades, which led UN in July to declare the first famine this century.

According to a WMO press statement, La Nina is characterised by "unusually cool ocean surface temperatures in ... the central and eastern tropical Pacific."

The weather pattern was blamed for extremely heavy downpours in Australia, southeast Asia and South America over late 2010 and early 2011, the WMO said in May.

Although the ocean temperatures in the Pacific leveled to their long-term, or

"neutral" conditions that month, "observations during recent weeks indicate a drift toward the cool side ... in terms of surface as well as subsurface ocean temperatures," WMO said today.

"If this cooling persists ... for another few weeks then we will be going into another La Nina situation," Kolli said.


"For (the Horn of Africa), this can be understood as a cause for additional alert," Kolli added.

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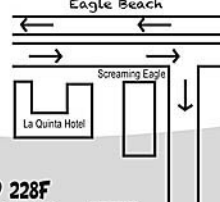
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## Health &amp; Living

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The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offers these recommendations to help seniors get started:

- Gradually increase your aerobic workouts, and add variety to your routine.

- Practice flexibility exercises, stretching slowly, gently and within your comfort level.

- Practice strength training exercises, but under the guidance of your doctor, physical therapist or fitness professional.

- Practice relaxation techniques to reduce stress and lower blood pressure.

- Drink plenty of water each day.

- Snack often throughout the day, and stick to light dinners.



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## US porn filming suspended over new HIV scare

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US porn movie makers have suspended filming after an actor reportedly tested HIV positive, reigniting a dispute over the use of condoms on screen in the latest AIDS scare to hit the industry.

The multimillion dollar US adult film industry is complying with a call for a moratorium, even though the new

HIV case -- which comes after that of another actor last year triggered a movie set shut-down -- has not been confirmed.

The Free Speech Coalition (FSC) said Wednesday it learned of a possible HIV exposure at the weekend, and called for an industrywide moratorium "to err on the side of caution and to eliminate any

possible risk to performers."

The trade body noted that the latest reported incident occurred outside of California, where the majority of US porn films are made in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles.

The trade body would not forecast how long the filming suspension would last, saying the moratorium "should re-

main in place until primary reports of any exposure are confirmed.

Last year at least four major film producers suspended filming for several weeks from October after a porn actor, 24-year-old Derrick Burts, tested positive for the HIV virus which causes AIDS.

The Free Speech Coalition lamented the clinic's closure,

which it blamed on pressure from the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), a group which has long campaigned for mandatory use of condoms in porn films.

Last year's HIV case was the first in over a year in the industry, and comes six years after up to 14 actors tested HIV positive, forcing several film firms to close.



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## Spanish king to undergo Achilles tendon surgery

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's much-loved 73-year-old King Juan Carlos will undergo surgery on the Achilles tendon of his left foot next week, the royal palace said yesterday.

The operation, which comes three months after surgeons placed an artificial joint in his right knee June 3, will involve suturing the inflamed tendon, a spokesman for the royal palace said.

## Cas Animal Cont'd Foundation Cas Animal bids goodbye to a good friend

In the 14 years since Kiki Arndt first moved to Aruba and stumbled on her mission of rescuing the island's stray, abandoned and abused dogs and cats, she has had a number of people come and go, supporting her in this work, but none as steadfast and appreciated as Claudie Wegdam.

Claudie came to live and work on Aruba years ago, and instantly admired Kiki's determination to help suffering animals and to eventually build a proper shelter for the more than 80 dogs she cares for in her home, and the 38 cats in that of a friends.

Claudie has adopted a number of the sweet "cunucu" dogs Kiki took in, over the years. "She has always been there for me in every way," Kiki laments while recalling her final with

Claudie, seeing her off at the airport as her good friend returned to Holland permanently, a couple of weeks ago.

Claudie had three dogs she had adopted, Dux, Rex and King. Unlike the owners of the home Kiki rented when she first came to live on Aruba, Claudie did not abandon her dogs to mortal thirst and starvation. Kiki found the two dogs in the house, almost dying while loyally waiting for their masters to return, and the course of her life on Aruba was set.

Traveling back to Holland with three hefty dogs might sound like quite a feat; Claudie reports they handled it like veteran travelers and are now enjoying the cooler weather of Holland very much and settling right in. Transporting dogs and cats to

either Europe or the U.S. is a much simpler process than many may think.

Kiki also encourages island visitors to adopt one of her dogs or cats; or perhaps one they have befriended on the beach or streets. She will walk you through the simple process of getting a health certificate from a local vet and transporting your new companion back home.

The smallest donation assists Kiki in her work of saving Aruba's strays, and her mission to raise the funds to build a proper animal shelter on land she has already been awarded by the government for this purpose; these can be made by calling her at: 565-2130 or 742-8732. You can also report a stray or injured dog as she maintains an Animal Ambulance to rescue them. Her expenses for feed-



Claudie and her babies at Aruba Airport

ing all the animals she has taken in are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills, and donations can be made by paying on her account at the Contreras Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, as well as directly to the bank account

of Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110.

Our continuing series and her progress can be followed on the Cas Animal Facebook page.

by Rosalie Klein

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## SHIP STOPPERS

## ACROSS

1. Italian wine town
5. Bud of "Harold and Maude"
9. "You got it, captain!"
12. Fill a washer
13. Type of frost
14. Address bk. line
15. Kinks song
16. Singer Murray
17. Chemist's workshop, for short
18. Mooring area
20. Southern constellation
21. Giants giant
22. Genesis

eviction site

24. The: Sp.
27. Convalescent's quaff
29. Marquee name
32. U.S. Naval Academy song
36. Settle the score with a matador
37. Sound of incomprehension
38. Pigeon's sound
39. Refuges
42. Break a record
44. Adjust from high to low beam

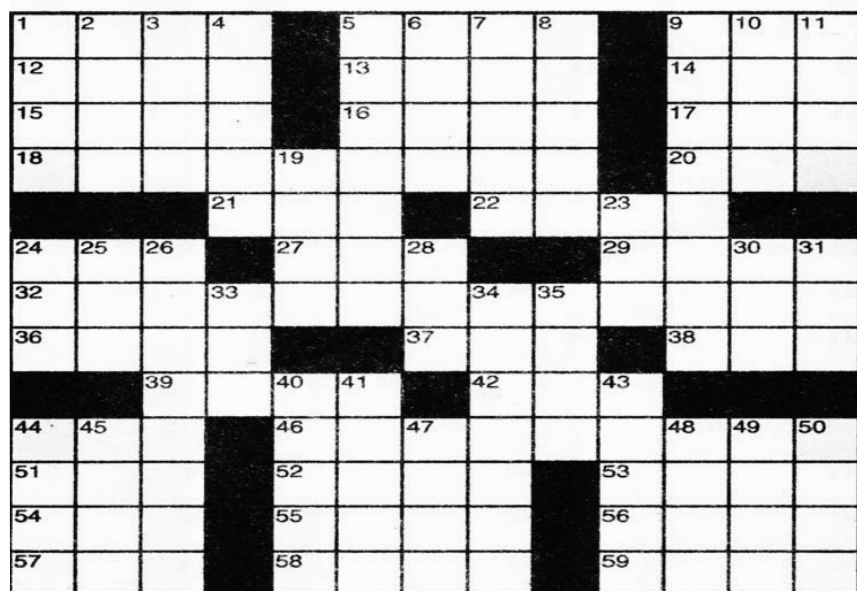
46. Tom Brokaw, until 2004
51. Eye, to a poet
52. Luau chow
53. Loosen
54. 100 cents: abbr.
55. One who supplements
56. He was: Lat.
57. Countdown end
58. Emulates Dorcas
59. Ferret bites

## DOWN

1. — breve (2/2 time)
2. Presently
3. Bath powder
4. Part of the Louisiana

Purchase

5. Rent, as a boat
6. Geraldine Chaplin's mom
7. Home of song
8. Trapped a squirrel
9. Part of NATO
10. Once around the sun
11. Napoleon's isle
19. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
23. Vane dir.
24. Time delay
25. "Season of Glass" artist
26. Shuffle
28. Barbecue debris
30. "Long — Tomorrow" (1971 film)
31. Before sigma
33. Part of HRH
34. Spine names
35. Audience cry
40. Chopin and Smith
41. Plumbing tool
43. Employ a vanity
44. Onetime Mauritian
45. Potential steel
47. Ship's company
48. French husband
49. "I want it yesterday" abbr.
50. Gains



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Telephone  
Numbers

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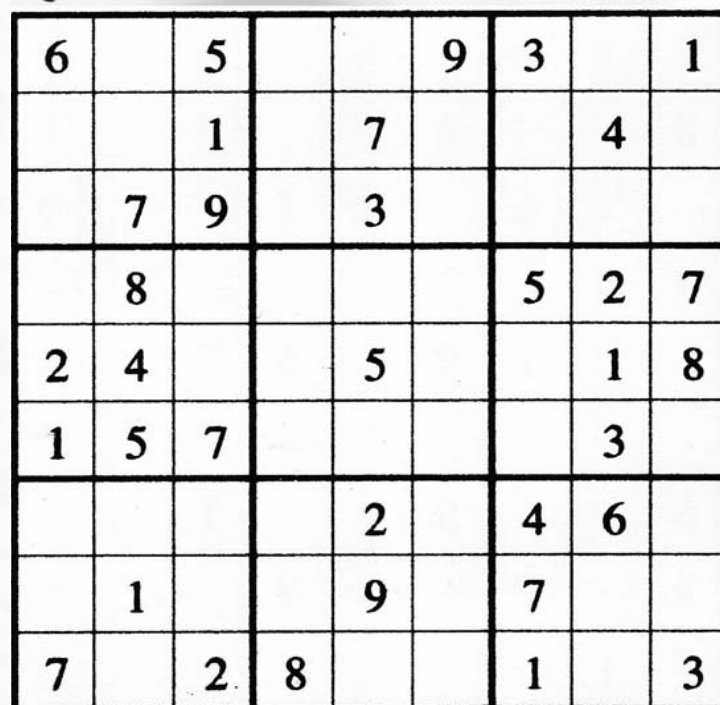
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## Sudoku



**SOLUTION**

6	8	5	7	8	2	9	4	1
7	8	1	2	6	9	7	5	3
5	9	7	1	3	4	8	6	2
7	6	8	9	2	5	1	3	4
8	1	9	4	5	6	7	2	3
2	3	5	7	1	9	8	6	4
9	5	8	2	6	1	4	7	3
6	7	2	9	4	5	1	8	3
1	4	6	8	7	3	2	9	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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## Finance

### Oil prices mixed ahead of Gulf of Mexico storm

NEW YORK (AFP) - World oil prices were mixed on Thursday as a powerful storm threatened to disrupt production in the Gulf of Mexico, while traders awaited a key report on the US unemployment rate.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for delivery in October, rose 12 cents to close at \$88.93 a barrel.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in October fell 56 cents to settle at \$114.29 a barrel on the IntercontinentalExchange.

US prices got a lift from the threat of a supply disruption in the Gulf of Mexico,

home to a substantial portion of US oil production.

Oil majors BP, ExxonMobil and Royal Dutch Shell started evacuating workers from their rigs in the Gulf of Mexico ahead of the storm, which forecasters said had a 70 percent chance of becoming a tropical cyclone.

"The oil market has been supported by the possibility of a storm in the Gulf," said Phil Flynn, an oil analyst with PFGBest Research.

Flynn noted that one of the rigs being closed down was BP and ExxonMobil's Thunder Horse, the world's largest

oil rig with a production capacity of a quarter of a million barrels per day.

The markets have also been on tenterhooks before publication of Friday's crucial US nonfarm payrolls report, which will indicate whether the US labor market is showing any signs of improvement.

"People are waiting to see what the payroll number is tomorrow," said Andy Lipow, of Lipow Oil Associates.

The United States is the world's largest consumer of oil, and fluctuations in US energy demand can have a strong impact on global oil prices.

### Netherlands to unfreeze two billion dollars in Libyan assets

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch government said Thursday it was ready to unlock two billion dollars in frozen Libyan assets to help the new interim government in Tripoli put its economy afloat.

"We want to unlock two billion dollars which were frozen," Henk Brons, a spokesman for Prime Minister Mark Rutte, told AFP.

"It's money that the NTC (rebel National Transitional Council) can use to put the Libyan economy back on its feet."

Brons said the money would be released from a total amount of around 4.4 billion

dollars in assets which had been frozen by the Dutch government in line with EU sanctions against fugitive Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi.

Rutte was taking part in an international conference held in Paris to muster support for the NTC administration set up by the rebels who ousted Kadhafi after a six-months Western-backed struggle.

Similar amounts have been unfrozen by the United States, France and Britain but other countries holding assets from the oil-rich country's ousted regime have so far been reluctant to unlock them.

### Jobs row, polls a new blow to Obama

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new Republican rebuff and a miserable set of opinion polls cast new scrutiny on President Barack Obama's drained political authority Thursday, as a pivotal fight loomed over the economy.

A row over an issue as mundane as the timing of Obama's big jobs speech also suggested that hopes for a Washington truce for the sake of the sickly recovery will likely be consumed by the usual partisan stew.

Obama staked out a bold

gambit on Wednesday by asking Republican House Speaker John Boehner to host a rare joint session of Congress to debut his new economic plan on September 7 -- the same night as a Republican debate.

The White House insisted that the timing was "coincidental" though few Washington observers buy that, reasoning the president wanted to steal the spotlight from candidates vying to turf him out of office.

But Boehner, fresh from outpointing Obama in a debt showdown in July, refused to budge, and in what Capitol Hill sources said was an unprecedented move, said Obama should come the next night instead.

The White House insisted Boehner's camp had raised no prior objections to the date, but the speaker's aides said he had never given the go-ahead as the recriminations flew between the two sides.

Eventually, knowing that a president lacks the authority to simply show up at Congress and give a speech, Obama backed down and agreed to Boehner's date.

The spat will likely be soon forgotten when the two sides squabble over the meat of Obama's jobs package, likely to contain a call for infrastructure spending and tax hikes on the wealthy which Republicans oppose.

#### WEDNESDAY'S Crossword Answer



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## Popular Pizza Bob's is perfect for casual dining



A popular hangout with Eagle Beach temporary residents



Swedish sisters Sharla and Carolina are huge fans of Pizza Bob's

Everyone has those nights when they want an easy, casual meal, and among denizens of the Eagle Beach area, their favorite place for fun food and friendly surroundings is Pizza Bob's, right next to the Bucuti Beach resort parking lot.

Maitre D' Alex adores welcoming his abundant repeat clientele, being five minutes walk from most of Aruba's timeshares has made the place a prime eatery among families with healthy appetites. Their pizza is modeled on the classic thin crust typical of Chicago's Southside, and the secret recipe of a famous pizzeria since 1957, which we dare not name as we might get whacked!

While checking out the locale, Alex introduced us to Sharla and Caroline from Sweden, frequent visitors to Aruba who can't imagine a vacation without several dinner stops at Pizza Bob's. This was the general consensus of all the guests who we spoke with during our time there; all make it a multiple meal choice during their vacation. "I have one couple from Germany who eat here every night of their vacation," confessed Alex, "they are

like family to us!"

Aside from the famous pizzas, the menu features very tasty barbecue, a personal favorite of Caroline, lasagna, Fresh Vegetable Linguini and huge salads that can be shared by two, plus a personal favorite for dessert, "Death by Chocolate." They do sport an air-conditioned dining room, which is popular at lunch time to escape the tropical mid-day sun, but nighttime is the right time to enjoy their outdoor terrace and great music from noted island singer Tommy every Wednesday and Saturday night, which converts the eatery into a congenial hangout until closing time.

If you love your pizza and island ambiance, Pizza Bob's is the perfect place for a fun night. Open for lunch and dinner every day from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and they deliver to all the resorts in the Eagle Beach area. Call 588 9040 ext. 790 for delivery or to pre-order. They also feature a daily happy hour from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. when you can enjoy a large size pizza for the price of a medium and drinks are 2-for-1; what a deal!

## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with



town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only



the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260

a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an



immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality

construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management de-

partment.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



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VENICE-Italy : AFP (From L) US actress Evan Rachel Wood, US actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, US actor and film director George Clooney, US actress Marisa Tomei, US actor Paul Giamatti and US script writer and producer Grant Heslov, arrive for the opening ceremony and the screening of "The Ides of March" during the 68th Venice International Film Festival on August 31, 2011. "The Ides of March" written and directed by George Clooney is the opening film – in Competition –, at the 68th Venice International Film Festival, the "Mostra".

## 'Queen of Pop' Madonna says she can have it all



VENICE (AFP) - Madonna jokingly defended her title as "Queen of Pop" Thursday,

quipping she would never give up her throne for love like King Edward VIII -- the subject of her latest film screened in Venice.

The blonde diva's second directorial work, "W.E.", starring British actors James D'Arcy and Andrea Riseborough, tells the tale of the king's famous romance with American divorcee Wallis Simpson -- and his subsequent abdication.

"Would I ever give up my throne for a man or a woman?" a flirtatious Madonna said after the advance press screening at the 68th Venice Film Festival.

"I think I can have both... or all three!" she told journalists.

The star -- looking sleek and glamorous in a black dress and high cream collar pinned with a sparkling jewel cross -- had sped across the lagoon from the luxury Bauer hotel on Venice's Grand Canal where she is staying.

Madonna said she had wanted to capture the "world of luxury, beauty and decadence" of the 1930s, as well as the "rarefied air in the modern world", which is also one of wealth and sensuality, but "does not guarantee happi-

ness".

The controversial passion between the king and extravagant socialite Wallis is told through the eyes of a lonely modern-day New Yorker, desperately seeking the fairytale happy ending that she believes the famous couple had.

The cinematography alternates between sharp images drawn out by Wallis's striking red lipstick or startling blue eyes, and grainy, hand-held camera shots evoking the bridge linking the two dramas across history.

Costume designer Arianne Phillips worked extensively with labels such as Cartier, Dior, and Dunhill to recreate Wallis's extraordinary appetite for fashion and exquisite, enormous collection of jewels and shoes.

Style icon Madonna said there were "elements of myself" in the film, and said she could sympathise with Wallis as an outsider, an American living in London.

"I empathize with Wallis. Public figures or icons are often just reduced to a soundbite, just a handful of attributes. I think people tried to diminish her... I tried to make her human," she said.

## James Bond set to return to India

MUMBAI (AFP) - James Bond is set to return to India for the first time in nearly 30 years, after the government granted filming permission for the latest installment of the fictional superspy's adventures.

The last time a Bond film was on location in India was for the 1983 hit "Octopussy", with Roger Moore in the lead role. It was shot in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

An official at the films division of India's information and broadcasting ministry told AFP permission to film the movie was granted on August 25.

And India's railways ministry confirmed the makers of the as-yet untitled movie, currently known as "Bond 23", had applied to shoot in Mumbai, Ahmedabad and the resort state of Goa.

Shooting is planned for February and March next year,



said Chandrekha Mukherjee, railway executive director of publicity, rejecting reports that the ministry had denied permission to film a sequence on the network.

"There's no dispute. The only issue is that we can't obviously stop trains and inconvenience passengers," she said.

"The only issue now is to decide what are going to be the points where the shooting will

happen. We're looking into it."

"Bond 23", to be directed by Oscar-winner Sam Mendes, is due for release in November 2012.

It is one of 22 films by foreign studios which have been cleared to shoot in India in 2010-11.

Others include a film adaptation of Mohsin Hamid's novel "The Reluctant Fundamentalist", "Trishna", British director Michael Winterbottom's version of Thomas Hardy's classic "Tess of the d'Urbervilles", and "Life of Pi".

"The Reluctant Fundamentalist", by US-based Indian director Mira Nair, is in pre-production, while "Trishna", starring "Slumdog Millionaire" actress Freida Pinto, is in post-production.

"Life of Pi", based on Yann Martel's novel, is due for release next year, according to the imdb.com web site.



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## Del Bosque tries to make peace among Spain squad



(AFP) Spain coach Vicente del Bosque has been forced to act as a peacemaker in the national team camp ahead of La Roja's friendly clash with Chile after tensions boiled over between Real Madrid and Barcelona during the recent Spanish Super Cup.

Barcelona beat Madrid 3-2 in the second leg of the tournament on August 18 to secure a 5-4 aggregate victory after the match ended in a mass brawl that saw three

players sent off.

Madrid coach Jose Mourinho poked Barcelona assistant coach Tito Vilanova in the eye in the final minutes of the match, allegedly in response to a series of provocations and insults from the Catalan bench.

The clashes revived tensions between players from the two clubs which erupted during the run of four "clasicos" towards the end of last season.

"The situation in the national team is at breaking point," Malaga midfielder Santi Cazorla warned recently while Liverpool's Spanish keeper Pepe Reina said "the atmosphere in the squad has got a bit weird".

Barcelona and Madrid contribute 14 of the 24 players in Del Bosque's squad for Friday's friendly against Chile in Switzerland as well as the Euro 2012 qualifier against Liechtenstein four days later.

The Spain coach - himself a former Real Madrid player who also coached the club to two Champions League triumphs - has expressed concern that the tensions between the two teams were taking their toll on his squad.

"The day will come where we will ask ourselves why we were so stupid and childish," he said ahead of the two matches.

Spain lost their place at the top of FIFA's ranking for the first time since winning the World Cup in South Africa last year after going down 2-1 to Italy in a friendly on August 10.

## Serena keeps family flag flying after Venus misery

NEW YORK (AFP) - Serena Williams kept the family flag flying at the US Open on Thursday, rolling into the third round a day after her sister Venus withdrew, revealing she had a rare auto-immune disorder.

"It really wasn't that difficult, to be honest. She wants me to do the best. So now, if anything, it should motivate me more."

Venus Williams said Wednesday she had been diagnosed with Sjogren's Syndrome, a condition in which the body's immune system attacks its own healthy tissues.

She had been troubled by mysterious symptoms for some time, and Serena echoed her sister's relief that a proper diagnosis had finally been made.

"I know she's a fighter and she's really strong," Serena said. "She's great. I think she's really happy now that she knows what it is after all this time."

"I think, if anything, it's going to help her now to treat it and go forward."

Serena has had some serious health problems of her own, sidelined for 11 months after a cut foot that required surgery and blood clots in her lungs.

She said it's almost harder to see her sister cope with illness than to get through her own.

"When you're sick, you're going through it and you're thinking, 'Gosh, this really, really is annoying."

"Then so when it's so close to you like Venus is going through it, it's like, 'Man, I'd rather it be me so she can be healthy.'"

She acknowledged that she had learned the condition can have a genetic component, but said she hasn't experienced any symptoms.

And she downplayed suggestions that she and Venus had endured more than their share of troubles.

"I visit kids in hospitals that have cancer, and I just am so amazed at how the families are there and how blessed I am."

"OK, I had a blood clot or had surgery. Thank God I don't have this other disease. Things can always be so much worse."

Certainly Serena has shown her resilience. Since making a modest return to competition in June she has roared to titles in Stanford and Toronto to establish herself as a favorite here.



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## NBA stars keep European giants aiming high

SIAULIAI (AFP) - Europe's top NBA players once again carried their national teams on a shock-free second day of the 2011 European Championships as holders Spain, hosts Lithuania, Germany and Turkey came up with convincing wins.

Los Angeles Lakers star Pau Gasol poured in 20 points to lead Spain in an 87-73 blasting of Portugal to remain perfect at 2-0 in Group A in Panevezys.

"We used a lot of our players in order to give others the necessary rest before tomorrow's (Friday) very difficult game (against Great Britain)," said Spain coach Sergio Scariolo.

"Overall we reached our goal which was to have two wins after the opening two games."

Lithuania cruised past Poland 97-77 with Mantas Kalnietis leading the way with 19 points while five others scored at least eight points.

Turkey are also 2-0 following a 90-61 mauling of

Great Britain with Emir Peldzic's 15 points pacing four Turkish players in double figures.

In Group B in Siauliai, France's San Antonio Spurs star guard Tony Parker collected 21 points to lead Les Bleus to an 85-68 victory over Israel while Nicolas Batum added 15 for the 2-0 French.

"We are happy to have won this game. There could be a trap game after a win. But we were really focused and took this game seriously," said France's Charlotte Bobcats forward Boris Diaw.

Germany used a 14-2 run to close the game and remain perfect, staving off a tough Italy side 76-62 with NBA stars Dirk Nowitzki (21 points and 12 rebounds) and Chris Kaman (17 and 17) both collecting double-doubles.

"What can you say about Dirk? He just did his thing again," said Kaman, who collected 10 points and eight rebounds in the fourth quarter.

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## Federer, Serena untroubled at stricken US Open



NEW YORK (AFP) - Roger Federer and Serena Williams, with 29 Grand Slam titles between them, cruised into the US Open third round on Thursday as the injury-plagued and illness-hit tournament claimed two more victims.

Five-time US Open champion Federer eased past Israel's world number 93 Dudi Sela 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 for his 225th win at a major, one more than Andre Agassi and just eight behind Jimmy Connors's all-time mark of 233.

The third seed next faces either Croatian 27th seed Marin Cilic or 18-year-old Australian Bernard Tomic, the youngest player in the men's draw.

"I'm always happy when I'm serving well. It's a huge advantage," said Federer, who unleashed 31 winners to Sela's 10 in his 77-minute victory, allowing his oppo-

nent just eight points on serve.

Triple women's champion Serena Williams took just 49 minutes to dispose of Dutch qualifier Michaella Krajicek 6-0, 6-1 and could face Belarusian Victoria Azarenka for a last 16 place if the fourth seed beats Argentina's Gisela Dulko.

Williams, seeded 28 after spending most of the last year fighting injury as well as life-threatening blood clots on her lungs, has dropped just three games in her first two rounds.

She saw off Krajicek, the 2006 junior champion, with a 10th ace, having unleashed 25 winners to the hapless Dutch girl's five.

"I just want to keep enjoying myself and have fun whether I win or lose," said Williams.

Meanwhile, the number of walkovers and injury-en-

forced retirements at the tournament climbed to 13.

Czech 23rd seed Radek Stepanek called it quits in the third set against Juan Monaco of Argentina with a shoulder injury.

Former French Open champion Ana Ivanovic reached the third round without hitting a ball when Czech player Petra Cetkovska, who beat the Serb at Wimbledon and was runner-up at New Haven at the weekend, withdrew through injury.

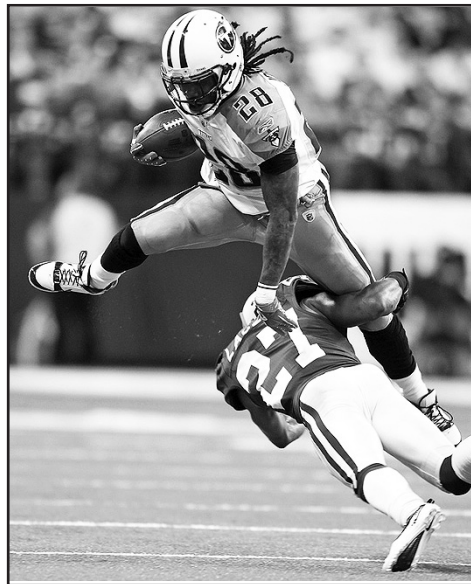
Serbian 11th seed Jelena Jankovic was also keeping the physios busy, needing on-court treatment on her back before wrapping up a 6-3, 6-4 win over Australia's Jelena Dokic.

"I felt a little stiff in my back and there was a little problem there," said Jankovic, the 2008 runner-up.

Also going through were Italian seventh seed Francesca Schiavone, who beat Croatia's Mirjana Lucic, and German 10th seed Andrea Petkovic who came from a set and 3-0 down to beat China's Zheng Jie 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

In the men's event, there were wins for Czech ninth seed Tomas Berdych, Serb number 20 Janko Tipsarevic as well as Germany's Tommy Haas who, at 33, is the oldest player left in the men's draw.

## Some openers to feature 9/11 tributes



NEW YORK (AFP) - National Football League teams will pay tribute to the "American spirit" with ceremonies at games on September 11 as most clubs play their season openers exactly a decade after terrorist attacks.

The NFL shut down for a weekend in 2001 in the wake of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon near Washington.

Coaches and players will join with firefighters and police officers in holding field-length American flags during the traditional playing of the US national anthem at games.

The league said the ceremonies will "recognize those who lost their lives, honor the families who lost loved ones, and salute the American spirit, the early responders on 9/11, and other heroes that contributed to the nation's recovery."

A video introduction, the playing of "Taps" and moments of silence will be part

of the pre-game salute.

"Taps" will be performed before some games from Arlington National Cemetery near the Pentagon and Washington.

For others, the performance will come from Shaksville, Pennsylvania, where passengers brought down a hijacked airplane, Flight 93, bound for a destination at the US capital on the day of the

attacks.

The Baltimore Ravens will host the arch-rival Pittsburgh Steelers on September 11 in a matchup of the teams located nearest Shanksville.

The Washington Redskins will play host to the New York Giants only a short drive from the Pentagon.

Sunday's night game will find the New York Jets playing host to the Dallas Cowboys across the Hudson River from the site where the Twin Towers once stood.

All players and coaches will wear a 9/11 commemorative patch or pin on their uniforms and all fields where games will be played on September 11 will feature a ribbon on the field in homage to those who lost their lives in the attacks.

The NFL season will officially begin next Thursday when the defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers play host to the New Orleans Saints.



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## World's Oldest Marathon Runner Fauja Singh is ready for next marathon



Centenarian Sikh runner Fauja Singh poses for pictures after being the first person to officially enter for next year's Edinburgh Marathon on September 1, 2011 in Edinburgh, Scotland. A world record holder, aged 100, Fauja Singh has run seven marathons, all after his 89th birthday. He officially opened the entry process by signing up for his last ever 26 mile event in Edinburgh.

## McIlroy back on form as Dougherty leads way

CRANS SUR SIERRE, (AFP) - Rory McIlroy found form on his return to action after a wrist injury with a six-under-par 65 in the opening round of the European Masters here on Thursday that leaves him two shots behind surprise leader Nick Dougherty.

England's Dougherty has slumped to a lowly 791st in the world after failing to

make a single tournament cut since the Hong Kong Open in November last year.

However, the 29-year-old rose to the top of a strong field after a flawless round which featured eight birdies and not a single bogey.

"It's quite a bounce-back," he said in an interview with his wife Diana, a presenter for Sky Sports, afterwards.

## Confident Ortiz on Mayweather - 'He's done'

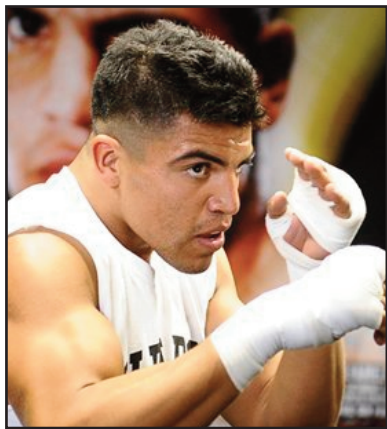
LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Confident American southpaw Victor Ortiz declared himself ready for whatever unbeaten Floyd Mayweather offers in their September 17 welterweight title bout, declaring Wednesday that "he's done."

Ortiz, 29-2-2 with 22 knockouts, will defend the World Boxing Council crown against compatriot May-

weather, 41-0 with 25 knockouts, in the challenger's first fight since beating Shane Mosley by unanimous decision in May of 2010.

"He can't adjust to me," Ortiz said. "I don't care what he brings. He's done. He was done when he signed to fight Victor Ortiz."

Ortiz, who at 24 is 10 years younger than Mayweather, claimed his first world title last April with a

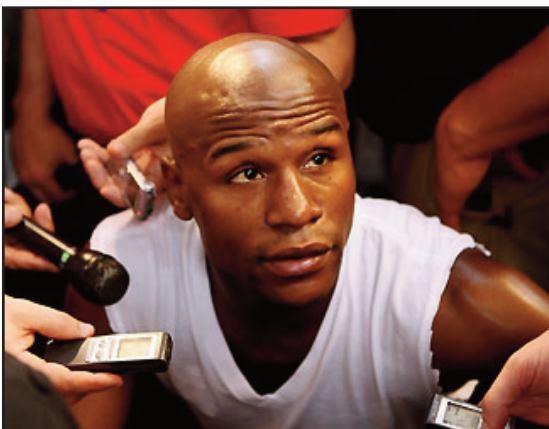


Ortiz (L) Mayweather (R)

unanimous decision over previously unbeaten Andre Berto. Now he wants to end Mayweather's undefeated run as well.

"Everything will be told September 17 when a man's career ends and another man's career begins," Ortiz said. "I will bring a cane for the old man so his back won't hurt too much."

Ortiz said he does not ex-



Floyd Mayweather to show up."

Mayweather's victims include Oscar de la Hoya, Ricky Hatton and Juan Manuel Marquez but he has not made a deal for the bout most attractive to fight fans against Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao.

Fighting Ortiz would be a perfect set-up for meeting Pacquiao next year if a deal can be struck, but left-hander Ortiz hopes to end such talk once and for all by dispatching Mayweather.

"My only thing is 'Floyd Who?'" Ortiz said. "He's overdue. He's not supposed to be a 147-pounder. He knows that."

"Floyd is a good fighter but I've always thought he

wasn't great. I'm not impressed and I'm not going to hold any respect like his 41 victims.

Ortiz said he has plans well beyond Mayweather, but they will be launched with a victory over the talkative former champion.

"I know where I'm going with this whole thing. I know for sure I will be champion for many years to come," Ortiz said.

"I'm going to keep working and I'm going to keep reigning. I believe the fight on September 17 will say it all."

The card also includes a showdown for the vacant WBC super-lightweight title between Mexico's Erik Morales, 51-7 with two draws and 35 knockouts, and Argentina's Lucas Matthyse, 28-2 with 26 knockouts.